

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAIRO 00668 091621Z

60

ACTION NEA-13

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 SS-20 PM-07 CIAE-00 DODE-00 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

USIA-15 SAM-01 AID-20 EB-11 IO-14 COME-00 TRSE-00

CG-00 ACDA-19 DRC-01 /182 W
----- 115406

R 091546Z FEB 74

FM USINT CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5293

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 668

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: BEXP EG

SUBJECT: SUEZ CANAL MINE CLEARANCE

REF STATE 25364

1. WHEN MEETING WITH FAHMY TODAY, I RAISED WITH HIM
USG WILLINGNESS SEND SMALL TEAM OF ARMY AND NAVY EXPERTS
TO CONSULT WITH APPROPRIATE EGYPTIAN AUTHORITIES ON
PARAMETERS OF MINE CLEARANCE PROBLEM. HE HAD ALREADY
BEEN APPRISED OF USINTOFF EDMONDS' PERTINENT CALL ON
SUEZ CANAL AUTHORITY DIRECTOR MASHOUR (CAIRO 638). FAHMY
AT ONCE SAID TEAM WILL BE WELCOME.

2. HE THEN MADE A STRONG, EMOTIONAL PITCH THAT USG
SHOULD UNDERTAKE MINE CLEARANCE OPERATION FREE OF
CHARGE. MINES AND UNEXPLODED BOMBS WERE ALL OF US
ORIGIN. USG HAS OBLIGATION TO REMOVE THEM. I SAID
THAT I COULD NOT ACCEPT HIS CHARGE. AS A FRIEND, I HAD
TO TELL HIM THIS WAS THE WRONG WAY TO GET US TO HELP.
USG IS WILLING TO CONSIDER HOW IT CAN BE HELPFUL IN MINE
CLEARANCE, BUT I COULD GIVE HIM NO ASSURANCE THAT ANY
SUCH OPERATION WILL BE FREE OF CHARGE. WE MUST FIRST
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DETERMINE MAGNITUDE OF PROBLEM WHICH SURVEY TEAM WILL

ASSESS. ONLY THEN CAN COST ASPECTS BE MEANINGFULLY
CONSIDERED. FAHMY TOOK MY COMMENTS WITH GOOD GRACE,
THOUGH I EXPECT HIM RAISE POINT AGAIN NEXT TIME WE
DISCUSS MATTER.

3. COMMENT: SUGGEST USINT BE ADVISED OF TEAM MEMBERS
ASAP SO THAT NECESSARY ARRANGEMENTS CAN BE MADE FOR
FOREIGN MINISTRY AUTHORIZE ISSUANCE VISAS. IN SENDING
TEAMS, WE SHOULD RECKON WITH EGYPTIANS AT ALL LEVELS MAKING
STRONG PITCH THAT USG UNDERTAKE MINE CLEARANCE OPERATION
GRATIS.

4. RE REFTEL AND LONDON'S 1805, I SEE NO OBJECTION TO
A JOINT US-UK SHARING OPERATION IF THIS IS FEASIBLE.
FUNDING ARRANGEMENTS WILL PRESUMABLY HAVE TO BE WORKED
OUT. THE EGYPTIANS NOT ONLY TALK "POOR MOUTH," BUT ARE
SO.
EILTS

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 09 FEB 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974CAIRO00668
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: CAIRO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740244/aaaabovi.tel
Line Count: 79
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: STATE 25364
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20 JUN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <20 JUN 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <02 JAN 2003 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SUEZ CANAL MINE CLEARANCE
TAGS: BEXP, EG
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005